



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
ARMED SERVICES BLOOD PROGRAM OFFICE
5109 LEESBURG PIKE
FALLS CHURCH, VA 22041-3258



ASBPO (40-2b)

BPL 03-06a
1 December 2003

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Revised Guidance for BPL 03-06, Blood Donor Deferral for Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS)

1. The Armed Services Blood Program Office (ASBPO) was established by the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs to coordinate the blood programs of the Military Services and the Unified Commands. In that respect, the ASBPO is issuing Blood Program Letter (BPL) 03-06a notifying the Services of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) Final Guidance ***Revised Recommendations for the Assessment of Donor Suitability and Blood Product Safety in Cases of Suspected Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) or Exposure to SARS***, September 2003 (Enclosed).
2. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the World Health Organization (WHO) investigations about SARS are ongoing. As of July 2003, over 8,000 probable cases of SARS have been reported to the WHO from 31 countries. For the same time period, over 300 suspected cases in the United States have been reported to the CDC. The CDC case definition of suspected SARS and the list of SARS-affected areas worldwide are updated periodically as new information becomes available. Affected areas are defined by evidence of community transmission of SARS. The CDC issues a **travel advisory** upon notification that an outbreak of SARS is occurring in a geographic area, and when the risk to the traveler is high because of evidence of community transmission and/or inadequate containment. The travel advisory is downgraded to a **travel alert** when there is no evidence of ongoing community transmission for 20 days after the date of onset of symptoms for the last case without an epidemiological link. The CDC removes the travel alert for geographic areas if more than 30 days has lapsed since the date of onset of symptoms for the last SARS case in that area, and limited or no recent instances of exported cases are reported from the area.
3. To ensure that the blood donor interview questions remain consistent with updated case definitions and the list of SARS-affected areas, the CDC will post updated information at their website (www.cdc.gov/ncidod/sars/casedefinition.htm). The FDA has revised their guidance to allow blood donor centers to cease asking potential donors about travel when there are no SARS-affected countries listed on the CDC website. Services may discontinue asking the travel question fourteen (14) days after the CDC lifts all travel alerts. However, the Services will keep the following questions in effect:

SUBJECT: Revised Guidance for BPL 03-06, Blood Donor Deferral for SARS

- **In the past 28 days, have you been ill with SARS or suspected SARS?**
- **In the past 14 days, have you cared for, lived with or had direct contact with body fluids of a person with SARS or suspected SARS?**

4. Requirements for donor deferral, post-donation information and lookback investigation remain as noted in BPL 03-06. Implementation of this policy will be as soon as possible, at the discretion of the Service blood programs.

5. **Service Blood Program Officers and Combatant Command Joint Blood Program Officers** must complete the enclosed form, *Acknowledgment of Receipt and Implementation*, (Enclosure 1) and return the signed original or fax copy to the ASBPO **NLT 15 December 2003**. A copy of all Service policy documents/letters implementing this BPL must also be forwarded to the ASBPO within 30 days of implementation. The ASBPO point of contact for this action is LTC Ronny Fryar and can be reached at DSN 761-8010/8024, commercial (703) 681-8011/8024, or via e-mail at ronny.fryar@otsg.amedd.army.mil.



RUTH D. SYLVESTER
LtCol, USAF, BSC
Director

Enclosure
as stated

DISTRIBUTION:
HQDA (DASG-ZA)
CNO N931
HQ USAF/SG

CF:
ODASD (FHP&R)
ODASD (C&PP)
JS, J4-MRD
HQ USJFCOM/JO2M
HQ USEUCOM/ECMD
HQ USPACOM/JO7
HQ USSOUTHCOM/SCSG
HQ USCENTCOM/CCSG

DIR USPACEOM JBPO
SBPO USAF
SBPO USA
SBPO USN
Medical Consultant USAF
Medical Consultant USA
Medical Consultant USN

ARMED SERVICES BLOOD PROGRAM OFFICE
5109 LEESBURG PIKE
FALLS CHURCH VA 22041-3248
703-681-8024/8025

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RECEIPT AND IMPLEMENTATION

Service Blood Program Officers and Combatant Command JBPOs only: Complete this Acknowledgment of Receipt and Implementation and retain one copy in your file. Return the signed original or fax copy to the Armed Services Blood Program Office
NLT 15 December 2003.

BPL 03-06a

Revised Guidance For BPL 03-06, Blood Donor Deferral for SARS

The document listed above was received and the policy implemented by:

SERVICE/UNIFIED COMMAND:_____

DATE RECEIVED:_____

DATE IMPLEMENTED/OR:_____
PROJECTED IMPLEMENTATION

SIGNATURE:_____

NAME/TITLE:_____

For ASBPO use only
Date Returned:_____

Enclosure 1